



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

UK government's Enemy Property Payments Scheme and Baltic States Scheme

Invitation to eligible claimants who were victims of Nazi persecution or their heirs, or were residents of the Baltic States, to apply for compensation.

The EPCAP and Baltic States Schemes

1. The background and history of the Schemes are explained in [Appendix B](#) and they are briefly described as follows:

- i. Enemy Property Payments Scheme (EPCAP)*

Under this Scheme the criterion for eligibility for compensation is that either the person who was the owner of the UK asset at the time it was confiscated by the UK government or the claimant (who must prove his or her relationship to such owner) must have suffered Nazi persecution, either through discriminatory legislation or action in pursuance of de facto state policy taken by the relevant enemy state.

Where a claim is successful the compensation paid is the sum originally confiscated multiplied by the UK Retail Price Index since the date of confiscation. This means, for example, that if £1,000 sterling had been deposited in a UK bank before the War and it was frozen or confiscated by the UK Custodian of Enemy Property the compensation that would now be payable would be about £40,000 sterling, depending on the date of confiscation.

- ii. The Baltic States Scheme*

This Scheme applies to residents of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania who had deposited assets in the UK before the War.

Where the original owner or the claimant suffered Nazi persecution and the claim is successful the compensation paid is calculated on the same basis as successful claims under the EPCAP Scheme, i.e. the compensation paid is the sum originally confiscated multiplied by the UK Retail Price Index since the date of confiscation.

The Baltic States Scheme has one additional feature in that it does not require the original owner or the claimant to have been victims of Nazi persecution as an essential criterion to receive compensation, provided of course that the claimant is the heir of the original owner. In such cases the compensation paid is restricted to the original amount that had been confiscated, without any uplift by an inflation multiplier.

Invitation to eligible claimants to apply for compensation

2. The Schemes remain open and the purpose of this Notice is to invite original owners or their heirs, who are usually descendants or relations of the original owners, to apply for compensation where their UK assets have not yet been returned to them. Original owners or their heirs must have either suffered Nazi persecution or been a resident of one of the Baltic States during the War.
3. This document is being distributed on a worldwide basis to the ambassadors of the Baltic States to the United Kingdom and to representative bodies of Jewish communal and survivor organisations who are requested to publicise the existence of these compensation Schemes to relevant organisations and individuals in their countries and regions of involvement in order to encourage eligible persons to apply for compensation. This communication is being sent to the individuals and organisations listed in [Appendix A](#).
4. In recent years very few new claims have been submitted. Accordingly, in January 2015 the UK government published a Consultation Document to a selected number of interested parties about the future of the Schemes. Following receipt of representations from these parties the government issued a response to the public consultation in June 2015. Inter alia, it was recognised that there is still a clear case for the retention of the Schemes but that although their details have been widely circulated previously, “awareness of the Schemes may not currently be comprehensively developed to ensure eligible individuals are able to access the Schemes” in order to establish whether they are eligible to apply for compensation.
5. It was stated that the government “will therefore consider appropriate communications activity to deal with this issue in due course”. This Notice is designed to give fresh publicity to the Schemes in accordance with the stated government policy.

How to apply for compensation

6. Records are maintained on the EPCAP website of all UK assets that were confiscated by, or were under the control of the Custodian of Enemy Property. The names of the persons resident in enemy or enemy occupied countries who owned the assets are identified, together with details of the sums confiscated. In most cases separate account cards for each owner were maintained which record the name and address of the owner and information about the confiscated assets. In the case of residents of the Baltic States, the available information is less detailed, but lists were compiled for each of the three Baltic States. These record the names of the owners and the individual amounts confiscated. The individual account cards and Baltic States lists are now kept by the EPCAP Secretariat.
7. Persons interested in claiming are advised to examine the names and other details of the original owners shown on the EPCAP website in order to ascertain whether they are either the original owner or an heir of the owner.
8. Individuals who believe that they are eligible to lodge claims, namely original owners or their heirs, are urged to submit their claims to the EPCAP Secretariat whose contact details are given in paragraph 9 of the notice. The Secretariat will provide claimants

with application forms which specify the necessary information and supporting documentation that have to be supplied.

9. Application forms for lodging claims and information about the Schemes can be obtained from the EPCAP Secretariat whose contact details are as follows:

Janette Plumridge MBE
Enemy Property Claims Assessment Panel (EPCAP) Secretariat
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET
United Kingdom

Email contact: Janette.Plumridge@beis.gov.uk

Distribution of this Notice

10. This Notice is being circulated to the individuals and organisations listed in the following pages in [Appendix A](#). Recipients are invited to inform relevant members of their communities and organisations in their country and/or region about the contents of this Notice, including on social media (e.g. Twitter and Facebook) where appropriate.

Appendix A: Distribution list

Baltic States

Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia

Ambassador of the Republic of Latvia

Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania

Communal and representative bodies

Latin American Jewish Congress, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Sydney, Australia

Jewish Community of Vienna, Austria

Coordinating Committee of Jewish Organisations In Belgium, Brussels, Belgium

Jewish Federations of Canada, Toronto, Canada

Comite Representativo de las Entidades Judias de Chile, Santiago, Chile

Union of Belarussian Jewish Organizations and Communities, Minsk, Belarus

Organization of Jews in Bulgaria – Shalom, Sofia, Bulgaria

Commonwealth Jewish Council, London UK

Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic, Prague, Czech Republic

Jewish Congregation in Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

Jewish Community of Estonia, Tallin, Estonia

Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France, Paris, France

General Council of Jews in Germany, Berlin, Germany

Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece, Athens, Greece

Gibraltar Jewish Community, Gibraltar

Federation of Jewish Communities in Hungary, Budapest, Hungary

Union of Italian Jewish Communities, Rome Italy

Council of Jewish Communities of Latvia, Riga, Latvia

Jewish Community of Lithuania, Vilnius, Lithuania

Jewish Community of Malta, Malta

Comité Central de la Comunidad Judía de México, Lomas de Chapultepec, Mexico

NIK Organisation of Jewish Communities in the Netherlands, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The Jewish Community of Oslo

Union of Jewish Communities in Poland, Warsaw, Poland

Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania, Bucharest, Romania

Russian Jewish Congress, Moscow, Russia

Federation of Jewish Communities of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia

Federation of Jewish Communities in Slovakia, Bratislava, Slovak Republic
Council of Swedish Jewish Communities, Stockholm, Sweden
Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities, Zurich, Switzerland
South African Jewish Board of Deputies, Johannesburg, South Africa
Jewish Confederation of Ukraine, Kiev, Ukraine
Board of Deputies of British Jews, London, United Kingdom

Survivor, special interest organisations and individuals

American Jewish Committee
Association of Jewish Refugees (UK)
Holocaust Educational Trust (UK)
Jewish Material Claims Conference
Jewish Agency for Israel
World Jewish Congress
International Tracing Conference
Lubavitch World Headquarters
International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, Berlin, Germany
The Generations of Shoah International, Berlin, Germany
The Association of Holocaust Organisations, New York, USA
UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation
Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, UK
The Lord Haskel, UK
World Jewish Relief, UK

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy acknowledges with thanks the assistance of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Association of Jewish Refugees (UK) in compiling the above lists.

Appendix B: Background and history of the Schemes

11. During the period of the Second World War under the Trading with the Enemy Act 1939 the UK government confiscated assets held in British territories owned by residents of enemy countries including the former Nazi Germany, Italy and Japan and countries occupied by them. This was in order to prevent the assets being used against the UK or its allies during the War. The confiscated assets were held under the control of the UK Custodian of Enemy Property.
12. In the 1960s the British government decided that individuals who were living in the Baltic States and had assets seized in Britain during the Second World War seized under the Trading with the Enemy Act should be compensated. This was called the Baltic States Scheme.
13. Separately, it was decided in 1997 that individuals who had lived in the belligerent and occupied countries, but were victims of Nazi persecution, had suffered an injustice in not having their seized UK assets returned to them and should be compensated. The Enemy Property Payment Scheme was devised to administer compensation payments to these individuals.
14. Both Schemes are currently administered by an independent Enemy Property Compensation Advisory Panel ("The Panel") set up in 1999, whose role is to consider and make decisions on these claims. There is also an independent appeals adjudicator, who hears appeals against decisions reached by the Panel. The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy provide a Secretariat to the Panel.
15. Under the EPCAP and Baltic State Schemes nearly 1,300 claims for compensation have so far been received and over £23 million has been paid to over 500 claimants, who now reside in many countries across the world.
16. A history of the Schemes pre-1999 can be found in the report:
www.enemyproperty.bis.gov.uk/fcoreport.pdf